

REMARKS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed September 29, 2004.

Election

In the Office Action, the Examiner required the claims to be restricted to one of three alleged inventions: (1) Group I, including claims 1-24; (2) Group II, including claims 25-31; and Group III, including claim 32.

Applicants hereby elect to proceed with Group I, including claims 1-24. Claims 25-32 are hereby withdrawn pending prosecution of claims 1-24.

Applicants make this election to further the prosecution process. This election is not meant to indicate that the Applicants agree or disagree with the restriction requirement.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, reconsideration of claims 1-24 is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this document, including any fee for extension of time, which may be requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct. 29, 2004

By: 

Larry E. Vierra
Reg. No. 33,809

VIERRA MAGEN MARCUS HARMON & DENIRO LLP
685 Market Street, Suite 540
San Francisco, California 94105
Telephone: 415.369.9660
Facsimile: 415.369.9665